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## **MEMORANDUM**

To: CMAQ Project Selection Committee

From: CMAP Staff

**Date:** October 15, 2010

**Re:** Programming Approaches for FFY 12 and 13

Given the adoption of *GO TO 2040* earlier this month, CMAP staff recommends the CMAQ Project Selection Committee help kick off the implementation phase of our region's comprehensive plan by shifting how CMAQ funds are programmed. It is staff's belief that this approach will better focus funding resources so that significant progress can be made in meeting the goals of the CMAQ program.

Currently, CMAQ funds are spread throughout the region on a multitude of projects of various types that local sponsors identify. When the program was initially developed in the early 1990's the practice worked for bringing new sponsors to the table and getting them involved in the air quality and congestion problems in the region. These issues are now widely recognized as major problems in the region and numerous agencies are working to tackle them, we should consider focusing our efforts to have the most impact possible. *GO TO 2040* calls for a coordinated effort to attack specific problems that are identified in the region and to invest strategically in transportation.

CMAQ can provide those funds for implementation which will:

- 1.) Implement strategies identified in GO TO 2040
- 2.) Invest strategically in transportation
- 3.) Improve air quality in the region
- 4.) Mitigate congestion in the region
- 5.) Spend down the unobligated balance of CMAQ funds

## Possible Focus areas:

1. Transit Improvements (facility improvements, service & equipment, transit transfer facilities)

An increased commitment to transit is a key theme of GO TO 2040.

2. Traffic Flow Improvements (Bottleneck Elimination {CREATE}, Intersection Improvements) Enhances regional mobility, reduces congestion, makes optimum use of the existing system and improves air quality as encouraged in GO TO 2040.

- 3. Traffic Signal Interconnects, Traffic Management Centers
  Enhances regional mobility, reduces congestion and improves air quality as encouraged in
  GO TO 2040. Also emphasizes the major theme of improving current transportation
  systems rather than expanding the current system.
- Commuter Parking (surface lots and parking decks)
   Focused funding for parking would allow for programming of the more expensive parking decks which best support compact, mixed use development (TOD) as identified as a major theme in GO TO 2040.
- 5. Bicycle encouragement/facilities/parking and pedestrian projects
  These projects support balanced transportation system (a variety of mode choices) and livable communities (compact growth) as identified in GO TO 2040.
- Diesel emissions reductions projects for private railroads
   Very strong air quality benefits support the GO TO 2040 vision statement on the environment regarding air quality.

It is possible that these focus areas could be combined or additional areas could be added. We are not suggesting that 100 percent of the funding be focused in this way, however we recommend that a significant amount- perhaps 75% of the funds be allocated in this manner. Our transportation infrastructure is key to the region's prosperity. Updating how the CMAQ program is structured to implement GO TO 2040, achieving air quality benefits and mitigating congestion as efficiently and effectively as possible is imperative to the continued prosperity of the region.